



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Man Sentenced to 27 Months in Prison for Stealing Over \$750,000 from Non-Profit Trade Association

Washington, D.C. - James Pearson, 56, of Baltimore, Maryland, was sentenced today by the U.S. District Judge Paul Friedman to 27 months of incarceration, followed by three years of supervised release, after his guilty plea in June to Wire Fraud in connection with his theft of over \$750,000 from a non-profit trade association, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips. Judge Friedman also ordered the defendant to pay \$764,846 in restitution to his former employer and its insurer.

Pearson admitted during the plea proceeding in June that while employed as the Office Services Supervisor for the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), a non-profit, member-supported trade association, he regularly placed orders to purchase unauthorized supplies on behalf of NEI from vendors through use of the telephone. These orders typically included electronics and computer products. When the supply orders were delivered to NEI, the defendant removed the unauthorized purchases from the premises and sold them for his own personal gain. He then altered the invoices submitted by the vendors to remove references to the unauthorized purchases and replaced those references with goods typically ordered by NEI. In this manner, the defendant over a ten-year period caused a loss to NEI and its insurer totaling \$764,846.

Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the excellent work of the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force investigators in this case. He also commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela Schmidt for prosecuting the case.

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